

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ASUNCI 02525 241557Z

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SP-02 SSO-00 HA-02 NSCE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3316

S E C R E T ASUNCION 2525

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, OAS, PA

SUBJECT: PARAGUAYAN BILATERAL

REF: STATE 156635

1. THE JUNE 26 MEETING BETWEEN THE DEPUTY SECRETARY AND FOREIGN MINISTER NOGUES COULD HAVE A SUBSTANTIAL IMPACT ON THE FUTURE COURSE OF PARAGUAY REGARDING HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT NOGUES RETURN TO PARAGUAY IMPRESSED WITH THE FIRMNESS OF OUR POLICY AND OUR ABILITY TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN TRUE PROGRESS AND MERE COSMETIC CHANGE. FOR EXAMPLE, PARAGUAY HAS MOVED RAPIDLY OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS TO RELEASE LARGE NUMBERS OF POLITICAL PRISONERS. THERE ARE NOW FEWER THAN FORTY PRISONERS DETAINED FOR POLITICAL OFFENSES. UNDENIABLY THIS REPRESENTS PROGRESS. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE PARTIAL LIFTING OF THE STATE OF SIEGE IS OF NO IMPORTANCE EXCEPT AS A STEP TOWARDS TOTAL ABOLITION. ALONG THE SAME LINES, IT MIGHT BE PRUDENT TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT ANY ANNOUNCEMENT NOGUES MAY HAVE MADE INVITING THE IAHRC TO VISIT PARAGUAY IS NOT ACCOMPANIED BY STRINGS OR CONDITIONS.

2. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT NOGUES MAY PRESS FOR A SPECIAL MISSION FROM THE UNITED STATES FOR THE FIFTH INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT STROESSNER IN MID-AUGUST. GIVEN THE FLAWED NATURE OF THE

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ELECTORAL PROCESS HERE, I HAVE RECOMMENDED AGAINST ACCEPTING ANY SUCH INVITATION. I WOULD VERY MUCH FAVOR A VISIT FROM A HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIAL WHO WOULD REINFORCE OUR POLICIES BUT WOULD PREFER ANY SUCH VISIT TOOK PLACE OUTSIDE THE CONTEXT OF THE UNIQUE PARAGUAYAN APPROACH TO TRANSFER OF POWER.

WHITE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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